

Public Notice – 401 Certification/Dredged or Fill Waste Discharge Requirements
Application

Date:

December 29, 2022

Applicant:

Western Mesquite Mines, Inc.
Bill Martinich, Mine Manager
6502 E. Highway 78, Brawley, CA 92227
Phone: (928) 341-4653 ext. 3301
Email: Bill.Martinich@equinoxgold.com

Authorized Agent:

Western Mesquite Mines, Inc.
Ron Leiken, Environmental Manager
6502 E. Highway 78, Brawley, CA 92227
Phone: (928) 341-4653 ext. 3214
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Project Name:

Pad 8/Section 16 Build Out Project, located in Imperial County, California
WDID No. 7A133173001, RM 449089, Place ID 883095

Receiving Water:

Ephemeral braided channels (washes/ephemeral streams) within the Amos-Ogilby Hydrologic Unit, originating from Nine-Mile Wash

Location:

City or area: 6502 E. Highway 78, near the City of Brawley, Imperial County, California 92227

Latitude/Longitude: 33°03'53" N, 114°59'49" W

Section, Township, Range: Section 16, Township 13 South, Range 19 East

Project Description:

Western Mesquite Mines Inc. (WMMI) proposes to build Pad 8 (Project) at the Western Mesquite Mine which is located approximately 35 miles east of Brawley, CA on Highway 78. The WMMI reports that leach pad capacity at the mine is becoming critically low. To help maximize and optimize usage of existing leach pad space at the mine, WMMI proposes to extend the current processing pads to the remainder eastern sliver of the area immediately adjacent to an existing leach pad (Pad 6). The Project allows Western Mesquite Mine to remain in business longer and maintain its employment and taxes in Imperial County. Mining operations provide various job opportunities and increase local spending and supply cascading in the economy.

The Project consists of the construction of heap leach Pad 8, construction of a synthetically lined internal berm to separate Pad 6 from Pad 8, and the potential construction of an Event Pond.

All of the Project land, located in Section 16 of Township 13 South/Range 19 East, was previously approved for leach pads by Imperial County and U.S. Bureau of Land Management in 1989 and again as part of a larger project in 2002, but not yet constructed. All Project activity will be kept within the previously permitted footprint reviewed and approved under prior CEQA documents; no changes to the Project beyond what was originally reviewed and approved in 1989 are reported.

Anticipated Project Start and End Dates:

Approximately November 2023

US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number(s):

n/a

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

Kai Dunn, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
(760) 776-8986

Email: kai.dunn@waterboards.ca.gov